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# The Collegian

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

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## Open Studio Exhibit Gives Fresh Look To Art



OPEN STUDIO EXHIBIT featured students participating in interactive ways. (Courtesy of Saint Mary's College Website)

BY: DAVID GARZA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I walked into the campus art museum, I had a predetermined idea of what I should expect. I was here to cover the new student art exhibition, Open Studio: Revealing Interdisciplinary Art Processes. I'd been to the museum once before so I was already familiar with the layout and most of the art there. It looked like a typical museum, complete with your standard paintings, sculptures, and the occasional curiosity, but nothing too out-of-the-ordinary. I figured this would be a fairly standard museum tour.

Seeing toilet paper glued to the wall when I first reached the exhibit made me realize that this would be anything but standard. Half of the artwork in the gallery looked incomplete, like the artist had been in a hurry to paint it, and simply turned in what they had finished

up to that point. I took my seat among the crowd and eagerly anticipated what would come next.

The curator of the museum, April Bojorquez and Professor Laura Elayne Miller, led the event. They immediately divided into groups and given a sheet of paper with a question on it, What do you expect to see at a museum? They gave us a bundle of pink sticky notes, and told us to write down as many things as we could on them and stick our answers to the paper. We wrote down all kinds of things you would normally encounter there, photography, sculptures, still-life paintings. My group completed the activity fairly quickly, but it wasn't until we were called to join the larger group that we realized how interpretive the question actually was.

Interdisciplinary art blends mediums such as science and art, literature and art.

"Why does it matter what we see? What are the implications?" were just a few of the more memorable questions asked in

the hour I spent at the museum. The entire exercise brought up the question of why people even go to museums in the first place. What are people expecting to see when they go to museums, and how are those expectations either met or subverted? These questions were brought up as the post-it notes were attached to one of the blank walls, broken up into categories of questions that were more concrete and those that were existential.

Once the exercise was over, I sat down with Professor Miller and Bojorquez to gain a better understanding of what

see Open Studio Art Exhibit page 3

## Brother Christopher Shares Life Story

BY: SEAN HEISKELL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brother Christopher Brady, F.S.C. grew up in San Francisco in an Irish-American family, where he attended Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory. It was there that he first encountered the Christian Brothers. Brother Chris spent his undergraduate years at Saint Mary's and furthered his education at the University of San Francisco, where he graduated with a Master's degree in School Administration. Inspired by his experience with the Brothers in secondary school and college, he entered the Lasallian novitiate.

Following Saint Jean-Baptiste de la

Brother Chris stresses the importance of "building relationships with students."

Salle's call to be an educator, he began teaching United States History and Government. His potential as an effective administrator was soon discovered, and he was appointed to work as a high school principal, a post in which he labored throughout California for over twenty years. Secondary schools where Brother Chris has worked as principal include De La Salle in Concord, Justin-Siena in Napa, and La Salle College Preparatory in Pasadena.

It was after many years of service in an administrative capacity that Brother Chris returned to Saint Mary's to work as the Chaplain for Athletics, inheriting the role from Sister Dolores Montini, C.S.J. A typical day for Brother Chris begins with

work at the Office of Mission and Ministry. In the afternoon he meets with teams throughout campus. Brother Chris stresses the importance of "building relationships with students, talking to coaches, and supporting them." He soon began to enjoy his new role, viewing it as an opportunity to have a more direct connection with students, an aspect of Lasallian life he has missed whilst working as an administrator. Student-athletes will attest to his joyful presence, willingness to lend an ear, and quick wit. During this past season, he was an inestimable asset to the basketball team, travelling with them on away games.

In helping student-athletes cope with daunting pressures to succeed athletically and scholastically at a high level, Brother Chris Brady is a valuable part of making sure Saint Mary's sports teams are psychologically and spiritually strong.

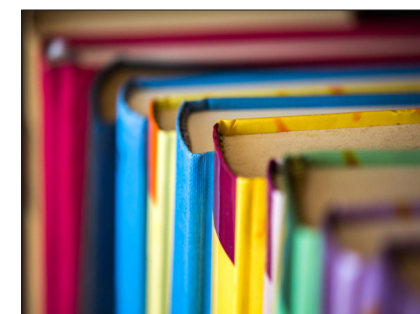
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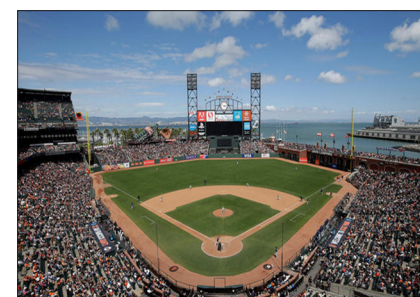
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*“To act upon one’s convictions while others wait,  
To create a positive force in a world  
where cynics abound,  
To provide information to people when  
it wasn’t available before,  
To offer those who want it, a choice—”*  
—TED TURNER

## Take Back the Night Honors Victims of Assault

BY: JOSEPH FOARD  
STAFF WRITER

On the evening of Thursday, April 4th, a Take Back The Night assembly was held in the Hagerty Lounge. The event was hosted by the Saint Mary’s Campus Assault Response Team, Women and Gender Equity Center, and the Student Coalition Against Abuse and Rape. In addition, Saint Mary’s Counseling And Psychological Services and the Contra Costa organization Community Violence Solutions were both present at the event.

“Take Back The Night is actually an...international thing,” senior Jordan Brown told the Collegian. “It originally started for women to “take back the night,” from sexual assault...and

from being victims of abuse and sexual violence. And so this became an annual thing that group communities put together...by taking back the night, and the night was just associated with literally, the night, most assaults happen when it’s dark out.”

After an introduction from SCAAR, the program began with performances from students, including poetry readings and musical covers of the songs “I’m Still Standing” and “Only Human.” The scheduled events of the program concluded with words from Community Violence Solutions, CAPS, the Center for women and Gender Equity, and the CARE Center, who explained and offered their resources. “Just remember that we’re part of a

I want you to remember that you are not a broken thing.

greater web of healing, and that’s what should always come first and foremost for all of us,” a representative of Community Violence Solutions stated at the program.

After the words from the organizations present had been concluded, the mic was opened to those in the audience who wished to speak.

“The open mic is for anyone who...feels urge in the moment to come up and speak, either in solidarity or with their own story,” Brown told the Collegian.

After a pause of some minutes, a woman approached the podium and, through her tears, shared her experience of having been sexually assaulted with the audience. After she was finished, other students began approaching the podium and recounting their own experiences, with several of those who spoke recounting multiple instances of sexual assault or rape

in their lifetimes.

Once eight students had spoken, event hosts Jordan Brown and Megan Flynn approached the podium to offer their support to those attending. Once a total of ten students had shared their experiences — eight female, one male — the open mic was adjourned.

The hosts lead the audience out of Hagerty Lounge in a procession to the chapel, each attendee having collected a candle. Upon reaching the chapel, the attendees arranged themselves in a circle, where Flynn closed the event by reading the poem “You Are A Survivor” by Nikita Gill.

“I want you to remember, you are not a broken thing,” Flynn read to those present, “You are a human full of incredible and wonderful experience, made of the same things swords and diamonds are made of.”



SAINT MARYS STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF STAND IN SOLIDARITY with sexual assault victims with their annual take back the night event on April 4th (Courtesy of Medium )

## Guest Speakers Give Advice on Gentrification

BY: SEAN HEISKELL  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last Wednesday, the Economics Club invited two guest speakers, Liz Laderman and Naomi Cytron, to share their experiences working at the local district of the Federal Reserve. Their topics were the role of the organization and its response to gentrification. Liz Laderman, head of Senior Outreach Economy in the 12th Federal Reserve district, spoke first of its history and twin goals of “reaching maximum employment and keeping prices stable.” The Federal Reserve is made up of twelve districts, with the twelfth covering nine of the western-most states and several overseas territories.

Naomi Cytron, regional manager of the Federal Reserve’s

Northern California Community Development, spoke on the department’s work researching and providing outreach to low-income communities. She primarily works with those hurt by gentrification and displacement. Cytron was quick to clarify the distinction between the two. Gentrification is a process of neighborhood change in historically disinvested areas where affluent outsiders disrupt communities, particularly those of color. Displacement, on the other hand, can have myriad reasons excluding gentrification.

For children living in families experiencing gentrification or displacement, their health, economic prospects, and educational outcomes all suffer. Adults, traveling long distances to work, are disconnected from their jobs, service providers, religious con-

gregations, and small businesses.

Government attempts to address discriminatory practices in housing are fairly recent. It was only during the Carter administration, with the passing of the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, that the practice of redlining was first addressed at a federal level. Redlining is discrimination in lending based on a borrower’s ethnic background.

Cytron mentioned that recent economic growth in the aftermath of the Great Recession does not tell the whole story regarding American workers. “At the same time as a decline in poverty, growth in high-wage jobs, and low unemployment, there are also rising rents, jobs and housing mismatches, and an increased suburbanization of poverty,” Cytron noted. Looking at the long-term, she expressed

concern regarding the effect that climate change would have. “Wildfires, drought, rising sea levels, and extreme weather caused by climate change disproportionately impact low-income communities,” Cytron said.

The department looks at various bodies with which they can coordinate assistance, such as financial institutions, government action, nonprofit organizations, and philanthropy. Northern California Community Development has a long-term response to the crisis: protect and stabilize housing, preserve and improve existing housing, and produce more housing.

Interested persons can learn more about the work that the Federal Reserve’s Northern California Community Development does at [www.frbsf.org/community-development](http://www.frbsf.org/community-development).



# NEWS

## The Weekly Update

Keeping *you* in the loop

### JOE BIDEN CALLED OUT FOR INAPPROPRIATE TOUCHING

Former Vice President Joe Biden has been accused of unwanted physical contact by several women in the past weeks. The accusation that has garnered the most attention has been that of Nevada politician Lucy Flores, who published an essay in The Cut detailing the incident that left her feeling uncomfortable. Several other women have since come forward describing similar incidents. Biden has insisted his intentions are always the best and that he is willing to listen, but he has not formally apologized. Since even before Flores’ essay, Biden had a reputation for being overly affectionate, especially with women. While one of the allegations constitute sexual misconduct, these women have made it clear that the presidential hopeful must change his behavior.

### WILL FERRELL AND ADAM MCKAY END PARTNERSHIP

The founders of Gary Sanchez Productions have announced they are dissolving the studio once all current projects are completed. The tandem dominated the comedy film world for an era with movies like “Anchorman,” “Step Brothers,” “Talladega Nights,” and “The Other Guys.” The joint statement they released stated that the two were still friends and still intends to work together creatively in the future. The move is likely informed by several factors. McKay has recently shifted focus to more serious comedies like “The Big Short” and “Vice.” Additionally, Hollywood has seen a trend of comedies struggling in the box office.

### ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER VOWS TO ANNEX PALESTINIAN WEST BANK IF RE-ELECTED

Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu has said that if he is re-elected to office he will extend Israeli sovereignty into the West Bank of Palestine where the country has already built walled off communities that are viewed to be illegal in international law. Whether this is just election talk or a serious threat remains to be seen. If it were to happen, though, it could very well put to bed any hope for the type of two-state solution the international community has advocated for for years. Israel is the country that receives the most foreign aid from the U.S. While past presidents both Republican and Democrat have been strong supporters of Israel, Trump has gone above and beyond in his unwavering, uncritical support, even going so far as to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. Such support has likely emboldened Netanyahu to make such claims.

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT CHANGES

In the House of Representatives leaders passed new changes to the 1994 Violence Against Women Act. This act was originally in response to the numbers that one in four women will experience violence from a romantic partner. The bill originally expired in February, but the new changes will continue to extend its lifetime for five more years. The bill also includes more rights for transgender people, and restrictions on gun ownership for people with a history of domestic violence. The bill has received bipartisan support for years, a bill that most politicians can agree on.

### BELGIUM APOLOGIZES FOR KIDNAPPINGS IN DRC

As colonial rulers of the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the 1950s and 60s Belgium leaders took away mixed race children from their families, seeing them as a threat to their rule. They also kidnapped children from Burundi and Rwanda. It is estimated that about 20,000 children were kidnapped and placed in Belgium orphanages. The country apologized for its actions, however, they did not make laws that would attempt to rectify the situation. Now, lawmakers have passed a bill that would help the children, now adults, find their families and receive birth certificates. This is an interesting development, as the country is being held accountable for the kidnappings.

## Open Studio Art Exhibit

continued from page 1



OPEN STUDIO EXHIBIT features interdisciplinary expression (Courtesy of SMC )

they hoped to achieve with the exhibition.

First of all, what even is interdisciplinary art?

“Interdisciplinary art blends mediums such as science and art, literature and art.” Bojorquez revealed. “It comes from the idea of putting the concept first. There’s no one way that artists work, and we wanted to be able to reflect that process in the art we show here.”

The idea that art can really be anything was a foreign idea to me. I had a very concrete definition of what I would consider art. But as Bojorquez told me, art is fairly tricky to define.

“Artists are always pushing boundaries” She explained. “We are always questioning what is considered art. What we were hoping to do with this exhibit is to get away from what is perceived as the ivory tower

We want to blur the boundaries between what is considered art and how people perceive that kind of work.

where only a select few can view and understand art. We wanted to put the practices in public space, make them more accessible.”

As for why there was toilet paper on the wall when I first walked in,

“We want to blur the boundaries between what is considered art and how people perceive that kind of work. This is known as social art” Bojorquez continued. “Art is about ideas and aesthetics. By that definition, there is a very broad scope of what could be considered art. We wanted to raise the question of what is artwork about? How do we think and interact with art?”

Professor Miller shares many of the same insights as Bojorquez. “Art is participatory, it’s about more than just going and looking at something that you think is pretty. Museums should always be finding new

Showing work in progress is a way of gauging reactions, and how it affects people.

ways to engage audiences. We think about viewership. How do your interpretations add to it?”

The idea of participatory art is nothing new. As Miller shares with me, this concept of interacting with art stretches back decades. “Art forms in the 20th century fueled ideas, lots of forms came from the 1950s, and ‘60s. That’s why I think it’s about time that we have an exhibit here at Saint Mary’s so that viewers can get an idea of what this kind of art looks like.”

The half completed work that I had seen earlier? All of it was intentional.

“It goes along with challenging the traditional notions of what art is” Miller explained. “Showing works in progress is a way of gauging reactions, and how it affects people. Sometimes showing off these artworks can be mind-blowing. The audience doesn’t know all the magic that goes into it, so it begs the question of When the art is finished, who is allowed to see it? Interdisciplinary art is challenging to most people in the art gallery world. We’re looking to create rooms with the kind of art that would stop you in your tracks. That’s what interdisciplinary art is about.”

So the next time that you’re looking for something that is more than just your standard art museum, drop by the Open Studio exhibit. Who knows, you might learn something.

## Campus Calendar

### Solidarity Supper

Tuesday, April 9  
6:00 p.m.  
Location: Korth Academic Center: Mission and Ministry Center  
Contact: Joey Lucchetti  
jsl3@stmarys-ca.edu  
Isabel Kent iak2@stmarys-ca.edu

### 1Day1SMC: Our 24-Hour Giving Challenge

Wednesday, April 10  
12:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.  
Location: Online  
<http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/1day1smc>  
Contact: Advancement Office  
advdevelopment@stmarys-ca.edu

### Science Careers: Employer Info Session - Aerotek’s Head of Science Division

Wednesday, April 10  
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Sichel Hall, 106  
Contact: RSVP on Handshake

### Study Abroad Information Session

Wednesday, April 10  
1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Brother Jerome West Hall, 130  
Contact: Center for International Programs  
studyabroad@stmarys-ca.edu

### Gael Better Money Habits

Wednesday, April 10  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Office of Financial Aid Services  
Contact: finaid@stmarys-ca.edu

### Safe Spring Break and National Alcohol Screening Day

Wednesday, April 10  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Location: Dante Hall, Quad  
Contact: Cynthia Cutshall  
cac13@stmarys-ca.edu

### 17th Annual Expressions of Blackness

Thursday, April 11  
5:30 p.m.  
Location: Soda Activity Center, Moraga Room  
Tickets: Students with ID: 4.00  
SMC Staff, Faculty, Administration, & Alumni: 6.00  
Children 5 & Under: Free  
General Admission: 8.00

### Jazz Band Concert

Friday, April 12  
5:00 p.m.  
Location: Soda Activity Center, Claeys Lounge  
Contact: John Maltester, Conductor  
jfm2@stmarys-ca.edu  
Tickets: General Admission: 5.00  
Seniors & Students: 2.00



# CULTURE

## Cultural Nights Add Value to College Experience

BY TOM MUYUNGA-MUKASA  
STAFF WRITER

It is not enough for you to say that Saint Mary’s College of California puts up Cultural Nights and you don’t participate. Cultural Nights add value to College life experience, a student’s attendance makes that value infinitely life-transforming. Cultural Nights are an opportunity to package culture as a consumable product.

Cultural nights are an opportunity to add more substance that makes College an all-around instructive space. They are public spheres where in exchange of knowledge and cues to a fuller life are possible. This may be done through music, dance, drama, sport, creative performance, reading, writing, picture art, cuisine, exhibitions and other events.

Through Cultural Night as a performance event, colleges provide a space for students to make cultural ideas a reality. This reality turns out to be both transformational and instructive.

Students engage in formulating and synthesizing robust ideas which become authentic activities against which recipients increase intercultural emotional intelligence and diversity. This prepares them to accommodate political, social, economic and thought diversity.

I have had a chance to follow students as they do rehearsals. I have even sat in some of the planning meetings. The behind-the-scene planning that goes into making these events before our eyes see them is invigorating. There is a feeling that one is argued on confidently by an invisible hand. That seeming invisible hand is culture. It allows one to manage time, commit time and be dependable upon to deliver.

Through Cultural Nights, it is possible to make information reflect what is real, unique and relatable. Even as it spurs originality, creativity and actionable ideas, it continues adding to College life experience.

I have attended multiple Cultural Nights – the Folklorico, BSU, EOB, Hermanas, Latinx, APASA and Arab

Cultural Nights – since 2016. In all events I learnt so much through the performances they put out. In the most recent Arab Cultural Night, I recall the skit on “ How To Dance Like An Arab!” With five minutes of participation in a choreography demo, I learnt the foot work and its importance among Arabs.

What I learnt after was that the particular dance move where there is use of the legs signified pillars of unity. Those footsteps are symbols of forming and maintaining harmony and unity among Arabs. This is relatable and has moral undertones that continue reminding humanity of her building blocks.

Among the APASA team, I asked about the symbolism around the use of bamboo sticks in the Filipino dance called “tinikling.” One version is that humans can utilize the environment to improve on themselves as well as having a higher regard for nature, which further drums the connection we all have with Mother Nature.

My curiosity around attending Cultural Nights is to compare the African roots universal view and the filters called Ubuntu (deference to values & essence) and Ubuntu (deference to harmony & diversity) with other continental devices used by other cultures to figure out life. Very briefly, Ubuntu is a value system and Ubuntu is a belief system whose outcome is integrity of human beings. They are mechanisms guiding humans as they journey through life.

Life’s system has four extremes: cosmic, spiritual, inorganic and organic. Within the system are dimensions for production and regulation. Within the dimensions are frameworks such as dignity, respect, co-existence, gender, sex, biology, ideology, innovation, stature and an awareness that we are part of a larger universe in which we are reminded about our limitation, proportion and duty. Ubuntu/Ubuntu have a major question: “how do you pass on knowledge to the next generation?”

They posit a moral: that what we

all know came from someone or (importantly) somewhere else and we need to pass it on to subsequent generations. Their expectation and reminder are that order and chaos are two sides of life. That these two are midwife of the individual and communal integrity. So, when I attend any performance, I also note how others are using, say, innovation to contribute to their own good and that of community.

Through Cultural Nights, it is possible to create audiences in which exchange of ideas and operationalizing accountability is a lived experience. We come to see the onion layers that make up the vibrancy of college life. I knew of the originators and initiators in many of the events who exuded a tangible excitement and lively joy from start to finish.

The internal organization ensured everything moved like clock work. Some of the rehearsals began last Semester (Fall 2018) but the consistency ensured success. With this committed preparation it is no wonder the attendees and other people consume these cultural events with an enthusiastic gusto.

Cultural Night is a culmination of what we learn in those classes, seminars or workshops on or about culture. Culture has a way it conditions us to see the world and how we interact with and within it.

I am not about to repeat or make the Kroeber-Kluckhohn list of the different definitions of the term culture. However, in everything that goes on during Cultural Night broad strokes of law, religion, art, conventions, collectivism, individualism and creativity are explored. At that moment during performances, participants are able to draw from or convey meanings from cues.

It is possible to learn a lot from behavior, evaluate, and calibrate myths or lies about other cultures. Did you know that, as humans, we all have so many things in common?

Humans laugh at the same jokes most of the time and almost all cultures have jokes about the rear-



Cultural Nights are the harbingers of so many other social events at SMC. (Photo by Adriana Avila)

end (the arse or ass, as it is put blandly this side of the temperate zones). These jokes are so powerful that they make one get off those rears and laugh to their fullest. Jokes (not the bawdy ones) about three things on the body, the heart, mouth and rear-end give the heaviest of laughter.

Try an analysis of the different cultural lores you will agree (or disagree) with me. I witnessed that during the recent Arab Cultural Night. Well, rear issues aside, there is something more for a College student in Cultural Nights.

Cultural Nights provide a platform for sharing a universal language expressed at the level of humanity. In some cultures the symbol of the dais or the stage for that matter is used differently. I am sure there are many out there who would use a different staging level to perform, but, at SMC, we manage to put the SODA Center to good use nevertheless.

We are able to provide or share reference frames for action or decisions. At those events, we partake of moments where we are able to share traits and characteristics. When the performers smile with the audience, there is a mutual feeling engaging all as humans. Culture is used to get many of us to socialize and harness our energies to drive our participatory nature in different college activities from managing gate collections, security, ushering, and to so many other activities.

Cultural Nights are a polite way of discussing differences that

are plain and obvious or exposing our blind spots. It is a space for shared insights or shared blind spots without starting wars or being seen to be racist, stereotyping, and aggressive. It is that time when we move away from seeing others as “representatives” of those far off cultures in a rather limiting and negative way. We instead, see each other as persons in our own right.

It is possible to demystify defenses built around cultural differences and instead find out, uplift and embrace these cultural differences. In immersing ourselves in different Cultural Night events, we indirectly adopt perspectives that may make us newer and more aware about the richness and diversity in humanity.

Cultural Nights are SMC’s way of baptizing us in large urns of cultural competence and empathy. The catechism promotes diversity, competence, enshrines an awareness of self and of others, compels catechumens to work effectively in cross-cultural encounters. We are able to recognize practices, values, biases, attitudes, assumptions and our limits.

So, Gael next time you hear about Gael Rugby, Basketball, Baseball, Lacrosse, Softball, Volleyball, Macken Debate, Hermanas, Latinx, St. Patrick’s Day, APASA, Arab Night, BSU, EOB and all those other events, make effort to participate. They are the ever motive engines of the SMC cultural identity. Your presence animates abstractness of culture and makes it a livable thing. Thank you so much.

## Beep! Beep! Cars n Coffee Builds Community

BY JOSEPH OTTATI  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

*[Eds note: Joseph Ottati is the owner of Distinguished Auto Group, which is an automotive business focusing on culture, sales and detailing. He shares with “The Collegian” how Cars n Coffee brings both the SMC and Moraga communities together, and how it brings hobbies to the forefront and builds friendships.]*

In a nutshell, a Cars n Coffee is designed to bring the local community of car enthusiasts together to enjoy a nice weekend morning. Typically, this is a good excuse to take out your favorite car and just go for a drive. What I noticed on our campus is that we have a thriving car enthusiast community, yet there were never any on-campus events specifically for car enthusiasts. In fact, the last car event that was held on campus was in the early 90s.

The Red Cross Club of Saint



Cars n Coffee brings the Moraga and Saint Mary’s communities together. (Photo by Joseph Ottati)

Mary’s plays an important role in these events as the host of Cars n Coffee. Red Cross usually has a table for fundraising, but other organizations on campus also have the opportunity to raise funds. The Knights of Columbus and APASA are some clubs that have participated in the past.

We have done three Cars n

Coffee events now with a fourth one happening on April 28. Each one keeps getting bigger as the word about us spread. What I keep hearing from the people who come to our Cars n Coffee events is how much they enjoy the campus. A significant amount of people who live in Moraga are telling me that they now have

a place to hang out on Sunday mornings. Occasionally, people get there before I do and stay even after I leave. It seems that they are genuinely having a good time.

It’s starting to become somewhat of a tradition for many members of the Moraga car community to come out and have a blast on our campus. Families are starting to bring their children and dogs, and I’ve noticed them taking walks around the campus afterward, giving SMC more exposure to people who may not otherwise be coming to the campus.

The best part about these Cars n Coffee events, though, is that it’s sparked other clubs wanting to make events that center around cars. The Dante Club recently had an “Italian Cars and Culture” event, which did a variation of our event by adding live music and cultural food, making it an even more family-friendly environment.

I think having events like this on campus really brings the

community together. Another great part of Cars n Coffee is that the event draws in students who may not know much about cars. The car kids end up bringing their friends, and those friends end up bringing other people. Last time we had over 200 cars on campus and many people enjoying the beautiful weather. There were also kids connecting with the outside community, potentially creating some interesting networking opportunities. For instance, I met someone who is a docent at The Cobra Experience, a car museum in Martinez, who may potentially let students in for free if they tell the front desk that they are SMC students. Fingers crossed!

As mentioned earlier, we will be definitely having another event on April 28 on the Front Commuter Lot. We also plan on hosting a much larger scale event in June in a prettier part of campus, right in front of the chapel and down the roads (and if we are lucky, on chapel lawn!)



CULTURE

The Final Season of Game of Thrones is Here!

BY TAYLOR BURKE  
STAFF WRITER

To say I am a little late on the “Game Of Thrones” hype would be a bit of an understatement. I started the first season about a month ago and have binge watched up until the 6th season, in hopes to finish before the premiere on April 14th, 2019 (do you think I can do it?).

For those of you who are late to the game like me, let me give you a little background of what “Game of Thrones” is all about. “Game of Thrones” (GOT) is one of the few American fantasy drama television shows that have engaged millions across the globe with their amazing visual effects, impressive storyline, and thrilling suspense.

“Game of Thrones” takes place on the fictional continents of



The Iron Throne. (Photo by The Independent)

Westeros and Essos in a setting that very much resembles the Middle Ages of Earth. Though, as in many fantasy novels, there’s no specific correlation to Earth history. While the story contains

common fantasy elements, such as magic and fantastical creatures like dragons, those elements are downplayed in favor of political intrigue and human drama.

“Game of Thrones” is not for the faint of heart. If you don’t care for adult language, nudity, sex, incest, gory violence, and lots of mean people doing mean things to other mean people (and to some good people, too), then this show might be a little hard for you to watch. It took me a while to fully get used to all of that, but my reactions are now in the lines of, “That guy was just beheaded? Boring.”

Unlike many television or film adaptations that stray too far from the source material, “Game of Thrones” has been fairly faithful in terms of the story, the characters, and the spirit of the novels. You may notice some changes, though, such as the

addition of new characters or alteration of some storylines. The show’s writers work directly with the author, George R. R. Martin, to ensure the changes make sense.

The first episode aired on HBO back on April 17th, 2011 and is based on Martin’s novel, “A Song of Ice and Fire.” Season 7 aired on 2017, and after the two-year wait, the fans are eager to start the eighth and final season and have been pestering Martin online about potential teasers and spoilers. As for Maisie Williams, who plays rebel Arya Stark in the series, stirs the pot by speaking to Entertainment Weekly, “There’s a lot of death this year,” she says. My comment to that is, “Wasn’t there a lot of deaths in previous seasons also?”.

It has been suggested that this is where the whole series

concludes and will be the shortest season with only six episodes (but supposedly longer episodes) than previous seasons. Speaking on the upcoming finale, “People don’t want it to end,” Williams said, as if we didn’t already know that all too well. “No matter how you end it, people don’t want it to end. So the ending is not going to be okay, because ‘the end’ is not okay. You know what I mean? I think the way we end it is right. And I think it’s time.”

To all the people struggling with trying to get involved with this series, it took me a couple episodes into the first season to truly get invested. However, there really is something for everyone and once you’re in it, you’re in it.

The premiere is fast approaching, so if you have no plans this weekend, be sure to catch up before April 14th.

Looking Back At This Semester’s Rainy Weather

BY GEORGE DONOVAN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When I first returned to school for Jan Term and noticed the rain coming down, I was delighted.

My class would take me from lectures in Filippi Academic Hall to the gym, and I’d always enjoy looking out the window to see what we’d be avoiding (and having to make that run through). But soon, the type of days that warranted a second bowl of cereal in the morning became days we’d dread to see on our forecasts again and again and again.

But we all want to have that great day to ourselves, buried beneath our extra blankets, Takis and chopsticks at hand for our Netflix marathon. Even routines like dinner in Dryden could become a treasured memory in heavy rain, with a lucky night for impressive food, a great show on TV, and all the company of your friends with a torrential downpour in the background.

Yet, the fact is rainy season in The Bay has never felt so unrelenting. With 3.74 inches coming down on Moraga in January, 5.96 in February, and 3.66 in March, even longtime residents of the area are starting to feel the toll it’s taken.

Believe it or not, since January 1st,

The Bay Area has experienced twice as much rain as Seattle. In February alone, San Francisco received 7.76 inches of rain. That’s twice the normal level, its most in a decade, and, in 169 years of record-keeping, the 16th most ever recorded. Up in Napa, Lake Berryessa’s waters have reached four inches over the “Glory Hole” spillway, with a stray duck even falling down into its depths, hopefully not into some sort of boss battle.

So why has all this been happening? During California’s droughts, ridges of high-pressure air constantly blocked off Pacific storms from reaching California. Now, low-pressure systems have sneaked past, pulling moisture-rich atmospheric river storms in from the tropics, and the West Coast is taking in water like a self-care thread Twitter account!

This rain has been nourishing the grass as if it’s a got a seven-day dining pass, and when the sun finally comes out, it’s gonna party like it’s their birthday. Though gasps of sunlight and clear blue skies have appeared now and then, one week, from March 10th to 16th, promised the picture perfect Spring countryside many had in mind when they first enrolled.

Whole mindsets began to change; people set up tightropes, had pool

parties, and ate lunch outside on the same blankets that once were a key element of their perfect day in.

It was nothing short of a blessing. Students who wanted to go to The Cross, The Sign, or The Tree of Life, each integral St Mary’s experiences, still had to wait some days for the trails, most of which still packed with mud, to harden once again. Unfortunately, this good weather wasn’t meant to last, and it was raining all over again the next week.

The level of rain we’ve had has definitely been an upset, but how deep does it go? In darkness, the substance known as melatonin is produced by the pineal gland, and helps us feel ready for bed.

Melatonin and its production, which sees itself shut off once light enters our eyes at dawn, is thrown off by the short days and absent sunlight of winter. During these times, the conditions allow for less light to reach our eyes and, in turn, influence the normal rhythm of our body. Exposure to sunlight gives us Vitamin D, which, in turn, promotes the production of Serotonin, and these difficulties in obtaining sunlight are believed to be responsible for Seasonal Affective Disorder.

So what can you do to keep your



It was at this very moment that the duck knew that it ducked up. (Photo by NBC Bay Area)

spirits up when the weather gets rough? Watching a movie, whether it’s on your computer or a DVD checked out from the library, is always a fantastic way to pass the time and discover a new world. Or, while still at the library, find a new favorite book and create your ultimate rainy day in. Know any rain lovers in your friend group who go to different schools? Call and tell them about how it’s been going when it gets intense!

One of my favorite setups to act on in the rain is using the treadmills facing the pool. Sometimes, just watching the rain pour down and

dive in can even be more exciting that whatever’s up on TV there. If you’re living on campus, find a lounge and make it that much more cozy. Days like these are your opportunity to create unforgettable experiences. When you look back on these rainy days, remember all the crazy and fun times you spent with the people you’ve come to cherish, whether you were out exploring nature or racing to get inside. Deep down, we’re all just kids following leaves rushing down the river created between the sidewalk and the road. Let these opportunities fall upon you like the rain.

Hulu’s Newest Show “Shrill” Thrills: A Review

BY LAUREN SCOTT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On March 15th, Hulu launched its new series, Shrill, on the platform.

The show is an adaption of the memoir of author Lindy West, “Shrill: Notes From a Loud Woman,” published in 2016. The show stars SNL comedian Aidy Bryant as Annie, British comedian Lolly Adefope as her best friend, and Luka Jones as Annie’s love interest. It is produced by Elizabeth Banks, as well as SNL producer and mastermind, Lorne Michaels.

The show has a particularly Portland-ish atmosphere and is filmed with an aesthetic often seen in independent film, but rarely translated into television. The

costumes featured are also very modern and trendy, which is on par for the show’s Portland setting. Additionally, the music also follows this Pacific Northwest feel, while also doing a great job of representing female artists, such as Angel Olsen, Kali Uchis, Courtney Barnett, and legend Carole King.

The program brings new dimension to the streaming service and addresses issues that many women face on a daily basis. “Shrill” follows the life of Annie, a millennial calendar editor for an online Portland editorial. Annie is plus-sized and must navigate the world of controlling bosses, online trolls, relationships, as well as dealing with the pressures of societal body standards. When the series starts



Aidy Bryant plays Annie. (Photo by V Magazine)

off, Annie is unsure of herself and her position in the world, especially because of her weight.

Throughout the series, Annie embarks on a journey of self-growth, starting when she realizes that she’s being undervalued at work by a boss who thinks of plus-sized people as lazy, and when the guy she’s interested in seems to be blatantly

taking advantage of her insecurities. Annie learns how to start pushing back when those around her try to silence her, and makes great strides in her career, love life, and her family life, as she is able to let go and learn acceptance inside and out. She does this with encouragement from family, friends, and the body positive community she finds both online and in Portland.

The production is especially interesting because it features popular trends we have currently, such as body inclusive pool parties, where all bodies are welcome and no shaming is allowed. This idea of community is a lovely idea for viewers who may not be aware of any body positive groups near them or of online support communities and

may now want to look into similar avenues.

The show has also been a hit with critics, as it currently has a Rotten Tomatoes score of 91%, and its ratings on other sites have also been considerably high. Celebrities such as the bestselling author Roxane Gay and actor Seth Rogen have also taken to Twitter to praise the show for it’s themes, and especially for its comedic style.

Overall, Aidy plays the character Annie with authenticity and its evident how much of her comedic style and personal experience shines through in her portrayal in the role. “Shrill” is definitely a show to watch out for, and the entire series, which is only six episodes, is available in full on Hulu today.



# OPINION

## On queerness, writing, and exclusion: a personal narrative

BY KA LOUGHMAN  
OPINION EDITOR

As many who know me (and many who have been reading my work as of late) know, I have been aggressively overwhelmed by graduate-school planning for the past seven months. The time for me to make a decision is coming closer and closer, and even thinking about it makes me nauseous. So I’m not going to talk any more about graduate school. Instead, I want to focus on something a member of the admissions committee at University of San Francisco wrote to me in an email while checking in on my decision-making process.

The adcom member wrote, “I think the world needs more queer essayists, and it would be so great if we got the chance to work with you.”

I was immediately struck by this professor’s characterization of me — a queer essayist. My first reaction was one of denial, despite this label being perfectly descriptive of who I am: I applied and was accepted into the genre of creative nonfiction, and one of the pieces in my portfolio has to do with how I came out as bisexual less than a year ago. But for some reason, I had never thought of myself as a recipient of that label. It dawned on me that somehow, I didn’t think I deserved it.

Queer essayist. Queer. Essayist. There are two distinct groups here:

people who identify as queer, and people who identify as writers (specifically writers of personal

I don’t need to rely on anyone else’s perceptions of me in order to determine who I am.



THE LGBTQ+ AND LITERARY COMMUNITIES can be exclusive when it comes to who is able to find membership within their respective groups, even if they do already identify with the necessary characteristics. (Photo courtesy of Bookstr)

essays), coming together to form a new group. Interestingly, both of these groups are exclusive as to who can claim membership. This is natural, and with good reason; to be queer is to be non-heterosexual, and to be a writer is to practice writing. If you don’t fit those requirements, you can’t claim the label.

What I’ve noticed is that sometimes, these groups can be more exclusive than they need to be. These groups seem to require something more than

just a simple identification; they require some sort of visible proof of “success.” As a twenty-two year old recently-out writer, I’ve barely lived enough as my true self to have accomplishments at all. Hence, my inability to see myself as who I really am: a queer essayist.

There is a factor of accomplishment that often prevents people from seeing themselves as what they truly are — many people believe that in order to call yourself by a label you have to have proved your membership to this group in some way that goes beyond what you know in your heart. The culture states that your identity is not valid until other people can

see it too. In the LGBTQ+ community (and particularly in the bisexual community), this often means falling in love/having sex with someone of your same gender. In the writing community, usually this means achieving some sort of fame or accomplishment such as publishing a book.

The queer community, like most identity-based groups, has its fair share of infighting. The bisexual community in particular has its own set of stereotypes to fight against from all angles. One thing I struggled with in coming to terms with my own bisexuality was the fact that I had never had a formal relationship with a woman before. If I hadn’t even

taken that simple step, how could I know for sure? It was never about what was in my heart or how I felt about the romantic experiences I had already had; it was always about how I had failed to accomplish what other “real” bisexuals had done already. I could not officially claim the label until I had “proven myself.” But I never stopped to ask myself: who am I supposed to be proving myself to?

It’s a similar game within the writing community; most people feel like simply writing a few short stories or poems in their journals, or having all of their work remain unpublished, isn’t enough to claim the title of “writer.” I had always thought that real writers were people who had made writing their formal job, and had managed to find a way to earn a living off of publishing their stories, articles, and books. But one of the best things about being a writer is that writing is an intimate way for a person to express themselves. The only audience that’s absolutely needed for a piece of writing is the writer itself. With this inherent intimacy, it’s only natural that in order to be a writer, all you have to do is be committed to your writing.

What I wish I had realized earlier is that I don’t need to rely on anyone else’s perceptions of me in order to determine who I am. All these labels require is a relationship to the experience, as well as a commitment to it. I am a queer essayist, not because I’ve published my writing or because my queerness is blatantly visible to other people, but because I simply am bisexual, and I simply am a writer. There doesn’t need to be any other reason.

## 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EXPRESSIONS OF BLACKNESS

This year’s Expressions of Blackness will be on April 11 in the Soda Center. The doors open and ticket sales will start at 5:30 pm. Expressions of Blackness showcases the culture, issues and customs of black students. It aims to help the audience learn more about black students and their community on campus. This is a space for black students to be unapologetic on campus, to talk about their culture, the issues in our community and celebrate their blackness. However, people who do not identify as black are welcome to participate and celebrate as well. The theme for the 17th annual Expressions of Blackness is Lit Like Us. Black culture is constantly duplicated throughout the world. Everyone wants to be ‘Lit Like Us’. Everybody wants to enjoy a rich culture, fierce determination, unfathomable unity and a long history of determination, but without the struggle. Our goal is to showcase and celebrate ALL aspects of blackness. The executive team wants to provide a space for black students on campus to tell their truth. In this space, black students can to build community with each other and interactive with people from different intersecting identities.

2018-2019 EXPRESSIONS OF BLACKNESS EXECUTIVE TEAM

## Q & A WITH SALA WILLIAMS, LEAD CHAIR FOR EXPRESSIONS OF BLACKNESS CULTURAL NIGHT

### What do you want audiences to understand after the show?

I want them to understand that different ways to be black and all aspects of Blackness are valid, and that black culture has influenced many aspects in society.

### What do you want audiences to watch out for during the show?

During the show, I would like the audience to pay attention to the passion and emotion in the spoken word pieces. The creators of the pieces are speaking their truth.

### Why do you think it’s important for students to attend the show?

I believe it is important for students to come experience culture through the eyes of their peers who identify as black. Reading about someone’s culture and cultural experiences is different than seeing and hearing their experience. So adding potentially familiar faces and names to stories and narratives can have a different effect in the the viewer. This is a place for black students to come and showcase their personal connections to the theme and how their life experience can relate.



# SPORTS

## LFC and Manchester City for the Title



LIVERPOOL FC is only weeks away from potentially securing their Premier League Trophy, but with Manchester City right there with them, the end of the season couldn't come faster (LFC)

BY HENRY PENALOSA  
SPORTS EDITOR

As regular season play winds down in the Premier League, two teams are vying for first place. Leading in the standings is Liverpool F.C., known by their nickname ‘The Reds.’ In second place by a hair’s breadth is Manchester City F.C., the reigning champions, known affectionately as the ‘Citizens’ or ‘Sky Blue.’ Liverpool ascended to first place in the standings during a March 31st match against Tottenham Hotspur, where they won a victory of 2-1 with a goal in the ninetieth minute of play. This propelled Liverpool to first place in the League’s point system, in which teams receive three points

for a win and one point for a draw. In a post-match press conference, Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp noted, “In the end, it’s not important when you score, it is only important what is on the scoresheet afterwards.” Klopp, a German national, assumed the position of manager in 2015. He is well-known for his tactic of gegenpressing, german for ‘counter-pressing.’ When gegenpressing, Liverpool initiates a full press against the opposing team as soon as possession has been lost, assuming that the energy lost by the opposing team when gaining control of the ball leaves them tired and off-balance. Klopp emphasized the importance of hard work in Liverpool’s success, saying “To-

day, it is a nearly perfect result for us, that’s clear. We take all of that, before the game we spoke about it, momentum is not a coincidence, it is something you take, you keep and you use.” Behind by two points are last season’s champions Manchester City F.C., led by Pep Guardiola, the former manager of Barcelona. Well-known are their intensely loyal fan base, “City ‘til I die,” has long been the chant of Man City football supporters. They have often been overshadowed by their internationally recognized crosstown neighbor, Manchester United, who won thirteen titles since the Premier League’s founding in 1992. In recent years, however, Man City has overcome their losing streak

and racked up three championships. Liverpool and Man City share interesting similarities. Both clubs reside in the traditional heart of industrial England, the northwest region, the largest of any outside of Greater London. They also each have neighbors in their respective cities. Just as City shares Manchester with United, Liverpool plays within eyesight from Everton F.C., with whom they meet in the annual Merseyside Derby. With a month left of play, it is up in the air which club will be the victor in the league considered to be the pinnacle of English football.

### OPINION

## Another Year of Losing Baseball for a Historic Franchise



THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS are looking at an uphill climb back to relevancy (MLB.com)

BY SPENCER GAVIN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

So often when people think of Bay Area baseball, the recent success of the San Francisco Giants and the beautiful Oracle Park (formerly AT&T) come to mind. However, the beauty of the park and tradition of the ballclub are running into trouble trying to mask the struggles of yet another troubling season for the Giants. While sitting at the bottom of the National League West with an abysmal 2-5 record, there is still some hope. Obviously with 155 games still to be played it is far too early to rule the Giants out. However, certain clues have already popped up in these seven games that show there could be trouble ahead. These clues are: runs scored, home runs, and earned run average. First, runs are the way to win. The more runs you score, the more likely you are to win the game. As it stands, the Giants have scored 17 runs over these first seven games. That is an average of 2.4 runs per game. That average is the 24th-best av-

erage in the entire MLB, a league that includes only 30 teams. Some may see that number and become critical and say well it has only been seven games how much have other teams scored anyway? Well to be clear, there have been five teams that have already doubled that run total and 2 teams that have tripled it. The lack of runs can be directly attributed to the Giants offense. In recent seasons the Giants offense has been nearly non-existent, and for much of their success in the early 2010s, their offense was just good enough. The Giants have not had a decent bat in the lineup since Barry Bonds was suiting up, and he retired in 2007. Without acquiring a decent hitter in either free agency or via trade, the Giants look to struggle for the foreseeable future as there is no hope for hitters in the farm system anytime soon. Second, home runs are another issue. While the Giants play at one of the toughest ballparks for hitters, they still sorely underachieve in this aspect. The Giants barely hit more than 100-120 home runs per season and

haven’t hit over 200 home runs since 2001. That is not always an issue in the game of baseball, especially when you can score runs in other ways. For example, if the Giants were not hitting home runs but leading in hits and runs scored, this would be a very different discussion. However, the Giants are not scoring runs in other ways. Plain and simple they do not have the offense to succeed in this league. Like I said, while home runs are not the only way to win, they are clearly the easiest ways to score runs. The final clue as to why the Giants are struggling so much is earned run average. Earned run average is the number of runs given up by the pitching staff per 9 innings. To be fair the Giants pitching staff do not necessarily have this issue, but it is a major factor for a reason not easily seen to the average baseball fan. While the Giants have the fifth best ERA (2.64) in the MLB right now, it must be noted when the runs are given up. To an average fan, 2.64 ERA is incredible for one player let alone an entire pitching staff. They would think, a run every three innings is pretty good. To the more engaged fan, they would look at when these runs are given up and see trends. For example, this past Wednesday night against the Dodgers the Giants gave up five total runs. Five runs is a bit more than one would want but nothing that can’t be beaten. However, the five runs were not

given up all at once. The Giants actually had a 3-2 lead heading into the seventh inning. But some missed pitches and timely hitting by the Dodgers cost the Giants three runs very quickly. The important takeaway from this is the time when these runs are given up: crunch time. With a lead in the seventh inning or later the bullpen for any team must step up and hold the lead. For the Giants though, this did not happen. Another way of analyzing this deceptively strong statistic is in the following hypothetical scenario. Imagine a game is in the ninth inning and the Giants are up by two against the Dodgers. Let’s say the Dodgers score three runs and win the game. While yes they only gave up three runs which are about the average every nine innings, they gave up the runs when it mattered. Even though the Giants may not be hitting well, their pitching is performing above average but they must perform when it counts and close out these games like last Wednesday. Overall the Giants have had some early struggles in this 2019 season. While it has only been seven games so far, I am offering a word of caution as to not assume the Giants will turn things around. There are clear indications the Giants could be in some serious trouble for this season and without any new bats or the development of current hitters, the Giants look to have a rough season ahead.

## Sports this week

### BEACH VOLLEYBALL

vs. Stanford University  
Thursday, April 11, 4 pm



### BASEBALL

@ University of San Francisco  
Friday, April 12, 3 pm



### SOFTBALL

@ UC Berkeley  
Wednesday, April 10, 4 pm



### ROWING

@ University of Portland  
Saturday, April 13 all day



### MENS RUGBY

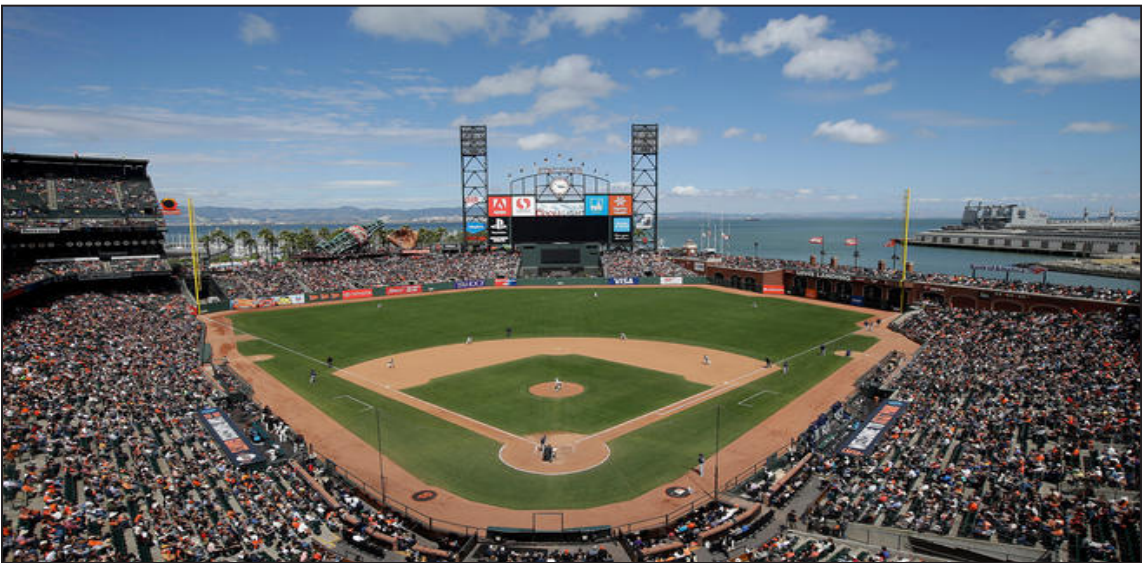
USA Rugby Round of 16  
Saturday, April 13, Time TBA





# SPORTS

## Oracle Ranking the most Scenic Ball Parks in America



THE NEWLY NAMED ORACLE PARK is a renowned for its atmosphere, and the view of the San Francisco bay is unmatched (Courtesy ofNBC)

BY PIPER WESTROM  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There is a serious degree of subjectivity that must be addressed when considering the word scenic. So let me start by saying, there are ballparks missing on this list that others might consider staples in the world of Major League venues.

When I consider the words “ballpark” and “scenic” together, I automatically think of a view that is largely unobstructed by ads, walls, or high-rise center-field seats. It’s also a nice perk when the venue can make the fan feel like they are truly a part of the city. Those criteria point to Number 10 on the list, which is a ballpark that hits almost every item on the list.

#10 Great American Ballpark (Cincinnati)

Great American Ballpark certainly has a lot to offer by way of views. Not only does the outfield back up to the Ohio River which can be seen from most of the ballpark, there are also views of the Adams and Northern Ken-

tucky river from other parts of the facility.

The video screen in left field, while rather tall as it is stacked on the second deck seating, isn’t terribly intrusive all things considered. Yet, even though “Great American Ballpark” does roll off the tongue when you consider baseball’s history in America, the giant ad that accentuates Great American as the ballpark sponsor is less than desirable as the biggest feature on the board.

#9 Safeco Field (Seattle)

While it hurts my Mariner-loving-heart to say it, Safeco Field does not rank #1 on my list, but I do believe it belongs within the ranks of the most scenic in the league. Free of any ads larger than the Safeco Field sign that hangs above left field, the ballpark is relatively free of large, obnoxious ads.

If you’re lucky enough to be seated anywhere above the first base line, you’ll get a wonderful view of the city but it is true that views of the Emerald skyline are largely blocked from other angles. Also, even though it is one

of the most pragmatic features for its location in all of baseball, the retractable roof serves as a rather serious block of the city and surrounding areas.

#8 Coors Field (Denver)

Coors Field is definitely a favorite among the sluggers of the league for its high-elevation, but it also ranks highly among fans as a beautiful place in which to watch baseball. The video board above left field is an interruption to open sight lines, but it’s pretty clear that the views from a majority of the park give guests an amazing picture of Denver nonetheless.

While relatively flat, it’s true that Denver doesn’t have many geographical features or city skylines to see with all the open space that centerfield provides. Regardless, the open environment provided by Coors Field is certainly refreshing and creates charming views.

#7 Nationals Park (Washington D.C.)

Much like Coors Field, Nationals Park provides fans with a wide-open outfield, save for the video board that domi-

nates most of the space above right-center field. At least with this particular park, the biggest feature happens to be the team name rather than a brand, which is somewhat more pleasing to the eye.

Washington D.C. is a rather large district and from the park, fans can actually see many parts of D.C. and feel like they are a part of the surrounding environment. With the second deck of seats only extending as far as right center, the outfield is an opportunity for the fans to enjoy an expansive view of the capital.

#6 Citizen Bank Park (Philadelphia)

#6 is where the list gets into ballparks that make the fans feel a part of the city that they are supporting, through the views that are provided by the venue. While the outfield has a much narrower view than previous parks, it’s the fact that it frames the city of Philadelphia that matters.

Not many ads are a concern at Citizen Bank Park which is a relief, considering most sponsors would be jumping at the chance to put their brand on everything. The Phillies are lucky enough to have their team name prominently displayed and it’s just one more reminder of how closely connected the park is to the city.

#5 Dodger Stadium (Los Angeles)

Aside from it’s ideal physical location in the Californian hills, Dodger Stadium knows how to show off the geography. The outfield backs up to a parking lot, but designers made it so that when a fan is in the park all you can see over the center field seats is rolling hills and blue sky.

The video boards are old school and not terribly big or crowded with surrounding advertisements, so as not to block any of the natural views to the scenery beyond. While it doesn’t at first glance make fans feel like they are in L.A., the views from the ballpark definitely remind fans they are in Southern California.

#4 Wrigley Field (Chicago)

Wrigley Field is a great example of a park that understands the importance of open views in the outfield. Not only can you see Chicago clearly from almost anywhere in the park, there is very limited second deck seating that would obstruct the view.

The video screen is modestly sized but also big enough for fans that are on the opposite end of the field to see. Ads are present, as they are at every park, but they don’t detract from the spaces

provided for signage. Also, the ivory wall is a nice touch that accentuates the walls in the outfield without making them an eyesore or a big advertising opportunity.

#3 Oriole Park (Baltimore)

Nestled in the heart of Baltimore, Oriole Park at Camden Yards is a ballpark that couldn’t deny its roots to the city if it wanted to. Not that it ever would, because the park includes towering skyline visuals and historic connections to the surrounding buildings.

It definitely has a large video screen that sometimes obstructs that view of the skyline but nevertheless, there are only so many ballparks that can say there is a hazard of hitting neighboring buildings with homeruns because they’re so close to the city. Oriole Park is a part of Baltimore as much as any townhall or office building and that makes for a picturesque sight.

#2 Oracle Park (San Francisco)

The former AT&T Park is beautiful, don’t get me wrong. It was a tough decision between the first and second place spots on this list because both of them so perfectly exemplify the qualities that I believe make a good ballpark. Oracle’s incomparable image of the bay is truly the selling point of the ballpark. It not only has a wonderful view, but it is virtually unobstructed from any angle.

There’s no second deck in the outfield, the two pillars on either side of the video board are the only things that could be considered in the way of the view, and the giant Coca Cola bottle in left somehow manages to be a charming advertisement. The one caveat is that the stadium’s back is to the city and if someone didn’t know they were in San Francisco, it would be hard to tell from inside the park.

#1 PNC Park (Pittsburgh)

PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates, has literally everything a baseball park could hope to have. Not only does it back up to the Allegheny River and have a beautiful view of the Roberto Clemente bridge, it also features one of the best images of the Pittsburgh skyline in the entire city.

The “PNC Park” logo is what dominates the video board, not an ad or a sponsor. The outfield seating doesn’t block any of the city scenery or bridge scenery from outside the park. PNC Park is so centrally located within the city that it truly feels at the heart of Pittsburgh baseball, which makes it the most scenic ballpark in all of the Major League.



THWRIGLEY FIELD is one of the most famous ballparks in the world, partly because of location, but also because of aesthetic (Parade Mag.)

## Saint Mary’s Sports Roundup

Baseball - April 6

Saint Mary’s	2
Portland	1



Beach Volleyball- April 6

Saint Mary’s	4
Santa Clara	1